

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

GILES S. PORTER, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

JOHN H. GRAVES, M.D., President

EDWARD M. PALLETTE, M.D., Vice President

GEORGE E. EBRIGHT, M.D.

JUNIUS B. HARRIS, M.D.

WM. R. P. CLARK, M.D.

GIFFORD L. SOBEY, M.D.

GILES S. PORTER, M.D.

Entered as second-class matter February 21, 1922, at the post office at Sacramento, California, under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917.

Vol. XI, No. 14

May 7, 1932

GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Unreasonable Swimming in Lakes and Streams Prohibited

A recent opinion by the Attorney General of Sec. 5 of the Public Health Act, prohibiting swimming or washing clothes in streams, lakes and reservoirs used or intended to be used for drinking purposes, holds that the section must be interpreted in the light of the remainder of the act and of other statutes and therefore not as an absolute prohibition. But unreasonable use or abuse can be prohibited.

The Public Health Act permits sewage disposal into streams and lakes under certain conditions. It would be ridiculous, therefore, to prohibit for reasons of water protection swimming in such a stream. Furthermore, it is pointed out that Chap. 1058, Statutes 1931, an act to provide recreation, expressly provides for damming streams for swimming purposes. Also, the law gives certain riparian rights, and the decisions of the Supreme Court in California recognize that riparian owners are entitled to reasonable uses of the streams, one of which is cited as for bath houses, provided the flow of the stream is not materially diminished or its quality appreciably adulterated.

However, the opinion does not imply that swimming can be indulged in without check. There are any number of streams in the California mountains so clear, clean and unpolluted by sewage that even to swim in them would represent a distinct impairment, inviting further encroachment of pollution, even though the swimming itself did not occasion a measureable pollution. Therefore, the opinion, clari-

fying an ambiguous act of the Legislature, does not in fact materially alter the stand which health officers have heretofore taken against swimming in mountain creeks, nor does it sanction swimming in lakes and reservoirs built for water supply, especially those reservoirs which hold water in a condition ready for distribution.

THE HEALTH OFFICER AND THE PROBLEM CHILD

Maladjusted children constitute problems to probation officers, to the schools, and to other agencies. Too often, the particular problems involved are not investigated from the standpoint of health. It is essential that health conditions, as well as social conditions, be studied in each particular case.

The Orange County Health Department is providing an examination service for such children as are referred by the Child Placement Department, Probation Department, and the schools. A physician from the county health department each Saturday makes physical, mental and social tests of a limited number of children referred by the various departments for the purpose of evaluating these children's difficulties as accurately as possible, so that their environments may be more successfully adjusted to meet their specific needs. During a recent period of six weeks, seventeen examinations of this sort were made.

SANITATION AND ESTHETICS

Most complaints relative to insanitation which health officers receive mince no words in the descriptions of the insanitary conditions involved. There is nothing impressionistic in the style that most complainants use in their communications. A distinct novelty is presented, however, in a complaint relative to the presence of rats on a beach which has been received in the office of the State Department of Public Health. In order to emphasize the destruction of the esthetic values in a natural beauty spot, the complainant sent the following communication:

"I've often been reminded of Virgil's lines by a sight of that beautiful cove on the north side of the point. What a place for a picnic, save for the rats! The lines follow. You may remember them:

'Deep in a bay a headland makes
A harbor by its jutting sides,
Where every wave from ocean breaks
And, parting, into hollows glides.
High o'er the cove vast rocks extend,
A beetling cliff at either end;
Beneath their summits, far and wide
In sheltered silence sleeps the tide.
In front, retiring from the wave
Ope's on the view a rock-hung cave,
A home that nymphs might call their own;
'Neath trees are seats of graying stone.
No need of rope or anchor's bite
To hold the weary vessel tight.' "

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS IN ORANGE COUNTY

During March, the Orange County Health Department, of which Dr. K. H. Sutherland is Health Officer, conducted sixteen immunization clinics. In these clinics, 383 individuals were vaccinated against smallpox and 567 received the complete immunization against diphtheria. During the first three months of the year, a total of 56 such clinics has been held in Orange County, in which 632 individuals were vaccinated against smallpox and 1602 immunized against diphtheria. These figures represent nearly double the number of immunizations that were done during the first three months of the year 1931. The Orange County immunization program for 1932 is now well on its way.

Certainly physicians can not prolong our lives by a single day. We live as long as God wills; but it makes a great difference whether we live miserably, like poor dogs, or keep well and fresh, and here a wise physician can do much for us.—Goethe.

CONFINING THE FIELD OF PUBLIC HEALTH

It is unfortunate that many health departments are charged with duties which do not belong primarily among public health functions. The work of all public health departments should be confined to activities that have a direct bearing upon the health of the general public. Too often, owing to legislative action, popular interest, or an interest in securing spectacular results, activities which do not belong to preventive medicine are carried on by the health department. At present some such departments are charged with expending more public health funds and producing fewer results than those departments which have confined themselves to the actual functions of public health. Too often, public demand has forced health officers to assume duties which do not belong properly to their field of work. Health officers who have been so imposed upon should make certain that their budgets are presented in such form that all activities which do not represent true public health functions shall not be charged to the mass budget of the department.

In spite of the wide variety of subject matter that is undertaken in public health, there is a sharp line of demarcation between those which are directly related to preventive medicine and those which are extraneous.

Still the world seems mounting higher,
Chasing unfulfilled desire,
Spurning barrier, prop and chain,
Scatt'ring darkness, conquering pain,
Winning much, but in each prize
Some sad germ of evil lies;
For the subtle taint that blends
With all human hopes and ends,
Making good the seed of ill,
Rules the course of nations still.

—Lecky.

TUBERCULOSIS WORK INCREASES

More work is encountered in tuberculosis control in Orange County during the present year than was encountered during a similar period of 1931. During the first three months of this year, a total of 1550 tuberculosis control visits has been made within the county, as compared with 450 such visits during the similar period of last year. This increase in activity is noted in practically every division of the department and gives evidence of the fact that the problems of the County Health Department are increased greatly while present economic conditions exist.

WHAT IS THE PUBLIC HEALTH OBJECTIVE?

Great stress has been placed, and properly so, upon the life-saving activities of public health departments. We can point with pride to the many deaths that have been prevented through concerted action in the control of many communicable diseases. Graphs with descending curves occupy prominent positions in our reports. The accomplishments in the saving of lives are remarkable and constitute a definite result that has been achieved through the application of modern methods in preventive medicine.

The functions of public health, however, are not confined to life-saving alone. Unless, at the same time, preventive medicine is able to make life better worth living, to provide greater physical comfort, and to uplift all community life, there is no excuse for its existence.

There is a new trend in public health and preventive medicine which leads toward the provision of every attribute that will make living a more enjoyable experience for most people. Of what use is a longer life unless it is a happier and more comfortable existence?

IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN IN LASSEN COUNTY

Dr. George S. Martin, city health officer of Susanville, reports the health departments of Susanville and Lassen County have just completed an immunization campaign for school children of the district, in which 624 persons were vaccinated against smallpox, and 189 children under eight years of age were given three doses of diphtheria toxoid. One hundred and forty others were given first dose only, and 42 others were given two doses only. These latter did not return to the clinic for completion.

All local doctors cooperated in the work as did the Parent-Teachers Association, American Legion Auxiliary, some individual teachers and school nurse. Expenses were borne jointly by Susanville and Lassen County and totaled less than \$100. The work was started in Susanville City Hall, and was finished at children's clinic of the Riverside Hospital.

This same effort was made in the same way in the winter of 1926 and 1927, and there has not been a case of diphtheria in the district since, and very few cases of smallpox and none in persons ever successfully vaccinated.

A child will learn three times as fast when he is in tune, as he will when he is dragged to his task.—Locke.

LIST OF DISEASES REPORTABLE BY LAW

ANTHRAX	OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM
BERI-BERI	PARATYPHOID FEVER
BOTULISM	PELLAGRA
CHICKENPOX	PLAGUE
CHOLERA, ASIATIC	PNEUMONIA (Lobar)
COCCIDIOIDAL GRANULOMA	POLIOMYELITIS
DENGUE	RABIES (Animal)
DIPHTHERIA	RABIES (Human)
DYSENTERY (Amoebic)	RELAPSING FEVER
DYSENTERY (Bacillary)	ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	SPOTTED (or Tick) FEVER
ERYSIPELAS	SCARLET FEVER
FLUKES	SEPTIC SORE THROAT
FOOD POISONING	SMALLPOX
GERMAN MEASLES	SYPHILIS*
GLANDERS	TETANUS
GONOCOCCUS INFECTION*	TRACHOMA
HOOKWORM	TRICHINOSIS
INFLUENZA	TUBERCULOSIS
JAUNDICE (Infectious)	TULAREMIA
LEPROSY	TYPHOID FEVER
MALARIA	TYPHUS FEVER
MEASLES	UNDULANT (Malta) FEVER
MENINGITIS (Meningococcic)	WHOOPING COUGH
MENINGITIS (Cerebrospinal)	YELLOW FEVER
MUMPS	

QUARANTINABLE DISEASES

CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS (Epidemic)	POLIOMYELITIS
CHOLERA ASIATIC	SCARLET FEVER
DIPHTHERIA	SMALLPOX
ENCEPHALITIS (Epidemic)	TYPHOID FEVER
LEPROSY	TYPHUS FEVER
PLAGUE	YELLOW FEVER

* Reported by office number. Name and address not required.

The real wealth of the nation does not consist in its money, in the value of its trade, or in the extent of its dominion. These are valuable only as they help to maintain a population and not only a part of it, of the right quality; men, women and children possessing bodily vigor, alert mind, firm character, courage and self-control.—Sir Arthur Newsholme.

MORBIDITY ***Diphtheria.**

84 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 1, Oakland 1, Fresno County 3, Imperial County 1, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 4, Alhambra 1, Burbank 1, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 4, Los Angeles 43, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 3, South Gate 1, Merced County 1, Merced 1, Monterey 1, Fullerton 1, Riverside County 3, Riverside 1, Sacramento 2, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 2, Sonoma County 2, Ventura County 1.

Scarlet Fever.

151 cases of scarlet fever have been reported, as follows: Alameda 1, Livermore 2, Oakland 3, Fresno County 4, Fresno 3, Glenn County 1, Orland 1, Kern County 5, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 16, Burbank 1, Huntington Park 4, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 48, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Redondo 1, San Marino 2, Sierra Madre 4, Whittier 1, Lynwood 1, Bell 3, Madera County 1, Merced County 2, Merced 1, Monterey County 3, Orange County 3, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 3, San Diego 4, San Francisco 7, Stockton 1, Santa Barbara County 3, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 1,

* From reports received on May 2d and 4th for week ending April 30th.

Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Palo Alto 1, Sonoma County 1, Tulare County 2, California 3.**

Smallpox.

5 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Hanford 3, Madera County 1, Napa County 1.

Typhoid Fever.

4 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1, Siskiyou County 1, Trinity County 1.

Measles.

603 cases of measles have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Livermore 1, Oakland 13, Chico 4, Colusa 1, Contra Costa County 3, Concord 1, Richmond 3, Fresno County 1, Glenn County 4, Orland 4, Los Angeles County 4, Compton 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 8, Monrovia 1, Montebello 1, Pasadena 1, South Gate 1, Bell 1, Madera County 5, Madera 15, Ross 1, Sausalito 7, Yosemite 5, Merced 2, Plumas County 6, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 34, San Francisco 249, San Joaquin County 47, Manteca 3, Stockton 100, Burlingame 3, Daly City 5, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 6, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 4, San Jose 4, Santa Cruz County 1, Siskiyou County 1, Solano County 4, Vacaville 3, Sonoma County 1, Tehama County 6, Red Bluff 8, Yolo County 22, Davis 1.

Whooping Cough.

372 cases of whooping cough have been reported, as follows: Alameda County 2, Alameda 8, Berkeley 8, Oakland 31, Piedmont 4, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 4, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 16, Alhambra 1, Beverly Hills 6, Glendale 5, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 24,

** Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

Los Angeles 62, Pasadena 11, Pomona 16, Santa Monica 5, South Pasadena 9, Whittier 1, Lynwood 1, South Gate 1, San Rafael 1, Gustine 1, Orange County 1, Santa Ana 12, Corona 4, Riverside 2, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino 3, Coronado 3, San Diego 30, San Francisco 18, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 6, San Luis Obispo County 4, San Luis Obispo 1, Santa Barbara County 6, Santa Barbara 11, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 2, Watsonville 1, Redding 4, Siskiyou County 9, Stanislaus County 2, Modesto 1, Tuolumne County 2, Ventura County 10, Fillmore 4.

Meningitis (Epidemic).

5 cases of epidemic meningitis have been reported, as follows: Fresno County 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, San Francisco 1, Tulare County 1.

Poliomyelitis.

2 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles 1, Stanislaus County 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic).

2 cases of epidemic encephalitis have been reported, as follows: Monterey County 1, San Francisco 1.

Jaundice (Epidemic).

One case of epidemic jaundice from Santa Barbara has been reported.

Food Poisoning.

4 cases of food poisoning from Los Angeles County have been reported.

Undulant Fever.

1 case of undulant fever from Corona has been reported.

Septic Sore Throat.

2 cases of septic sore throat have been reported, as follows: Berkeley 1, Ukiah 1.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE REPORTS

Disease	1932				1931			
	Week ending			Reports for week ending April 30 received by May 3	Week ending			Reports for week ending May 2 received by May 5
	April 9	April 16	April 23		April 11	April 18	April 25	
Actinomycosis	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chickenpox	1,057	998	938	718	577	631	511	556
Coccidioidal Granuloma	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Dengue	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	64	94	85	84	72	52	60	80
Dysentery (Amoebic)	1	3	3	3	1	0	2	0
Dysentery (Bacillary)	1	4	1	3	2	0	4	4
Encephalitis (Epidemic)	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	22	31	22	25	22	25	18	42
Food Poisoning	12	3	5	4	0	14	11	0
German Measles	12	31	10	13	22	33	49	17
Gonococcus Infection	260	133	169	134	106	134	105	146
Hookworm	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Influenza	62	89	65	74	101	78	277	88
Jaundice (Epidemic)	0	0	3	1	5	0	2	0
Leprosy	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0
Malaria	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	0
Measles	548	653	634	603	1,568	1,492	1,579	1,297
Meningitis (Epidemic)	5	0	3	5	6	4	7	8
Mumps	181	303	206	187	381	347	359	259
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Pellagra	1	1	0	0	3	2	2	3
Pneumonia (Lobar)	61	50	43	40	52	57	34	46
Poliomyelitis	0	3	4	2	4	5	6	4
Psittacosis	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rabies (Animal)	10	14	11	9	32	16	17	19
Scarlet Fever	168	169	189	151	135	173	164	158
Septic Sore Throat	1	1	0	2	7	10	9	1
Smallpox	7	22	16	5	46	54	55	45
Syphilis	306	173	218	199	184	184	149	210
Tetanus	1	2	3	1	0	4	0	0
Trachoma	3	7	8	3	1	0	1	7
Trichinosis	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
Tuberculosis	257	226	237	252	205	251	202	215
Typhoid Fever	10	10	13	4	11	11	11	14
Undulant Fever	3	4	2	1	4	0	2	0
Whooping Cough	389	405	469	372	417	401	406	305
Totals	3,445	3,437	3,364	2,900	3,967	3,984	4,043	3,524

Most reportable diseases are less prevalent than at the same season of last year.

Chickenpox is on a downward scale.

Considering that this is an off-cycle year, measles is quite prevalent.

General health conditions are good.